

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

AGENDA--SIXTY THIRD MEETING

Dixon Springs State Park  
Dixon Springs, Illinois  
1:00 p.m., May 6, 1977

- \* Documentary material herewith
- # Documentary material previously distributed

1) Call to order and roll call

Possible attendants:

Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz  
Dr. John Ebinger  
Gordon Graves  
Dr. Alan Haney  
Dr. Stanley Harris  
Frederick Kalivoda  
Dr. Peter Schramm

Dr. George Sprugel

George B. Fell  
Max Hutchison  
Gerald Paulson  
Richard Thom

John Schwegman  
Robert Schanzle  
Andy West  
Charles Tamminga

Steve Apfelbaum  
Barbara Fell  
Ann Fisher  
Mrs. Gordon Graves  
Mrs. Frederick Kalivoda  
Dr. Kenneth Robertson  
Rhona Schultz  
Paul Shildneck  
Lewis Stannard

2) Adoption of agenda

# 3) Approval of 62nd meeting minutes

4) Financial report

5) General report of INPC staff

6) General report of Conservation Department staff





7) Report of Natural Areas Inventory staff

8) Rare & endangered species study

The Natural Land Institute has commenced work on its endangered species study project. Dr. Charles Sheviak has joined the Institute staff as botanist.

REPORT  
Fell

9) Next meeting arrangements

Proposed meeting date--July 15, 1977, Illinois State University, Normal.

10) Budget and personnel

REPORT  
Fell

11) Biennial report 1975-1976

REPORT  
Paulson & Thom

ACTION  
Approval of policy statements & recommendations.

12) Natural Heritage Preservation Bill (SB 882)

Prior action: Draft bill approved in principle 62-27(R434)

REPORT April 7, to Agric., Conserv. & Energy Committee.  
Fell Hearing in Committee on April 25  
Placed in Subcommittee, carried over summer

ACTION  
To be considered

Motion to appoint  
committee to work  
with Dept. to  
resolve  
differences.  
by July 1.

AREAS

Differences between Bill and views of Dept. of Conserv.  
Needs clarification of responsibilities of 2 staffs  
Dept. does not quite agree with division of authority in Bill  
Dept. would prefer Commission with small staff, more "watchdog" role

\* 13) Bureau Co.--Myer Woods (20 acres)

Prior action: Preliminary approval of dedication 62-22(R431)

ACTION  
Final approval of dedication

7) Report of Natural Areas Inventory Staff

8) Rare & endangered species study

The Natural Land Institute has commenced work on its endangered species study project. Dr. Charles Shovel has joined the Institute staff as botanist.

REPORT  
Fall

9) Next meeting arrangements

Proposed meeting date--July 15, 1977, Illinois State University, Normal.

10) Budget and personnel

REPORT  
Fall

11) Biennial report 1975-1976

REPORT  
Pattison & Thom

ACTION  
Approval of policy statements & recommendations.

12) Natural Heritage Preservation Bill (SB 882)

Prior action: Draft bill approved in principle 63-27(RA34)

ACTION

To be considered

REPORT  
Fall

AREAS

\* 13) Bureau Co.--Myer Woods (26 acres)

Prior action: Preliminary approval of dedication 63-25(RA31)

ACTION

Final approval of dedication



# 14) Johnson Co.--Little Black Slough Interim Management Plan  
(Distributed with 60th meeting agenda)

REPORT

Schwegman

*Dept. Plan for multiple use - hunting, back-pack camping in certain areas  
much discussion  
no official action, encourage Dept. to carry on with dedication procedures and*

ACTION

To be considered

\* 15) Lake Co.--Lake Forest Open Lands Area (Shaw Prairie & Woodland)  
(Prior action: Dedication approved in principle 60-11(410))

REPORT

Paulson

*nat. cons. land leased to CFOLA,  
part used as research area to  
Lake Forest College*

ACTION

Preliminary approval of dedication  
of nature preserve (35 acres) and buffer

\* 16) LaSalle Co.--Margery C. Carlson Nature Preserve buffer area (85 acres)

Prior action: Preliminary approval of dedication of buffer area 57-16(R385)

REPORT

Paulson

*approved*

ACTION

Final approval of dedication of buffer  
area

\* 17) Mason Co.--Sand Ridge State Forest

*notion approved  
Recommend that Director  
of Dept. not allow  
motorcycles in forest  
because of Commission's  
concern for Natural  
Areas.*

Consideration of recommendation from Lawrence E. Brown that habitat of  
Illinois mud turtle (Kinosternon flavescens spooneri) be dedicated as  
a nature preserve.

REPORT

Birkenholz & Schwegman

*suggest to Schwegman that Dept. continue efforts to promote management of species  
no need to set aside as nature preserve*

ACTION

To be considered

*Recommend that Dept. NOT  
Build Picnic pavillion.*

*Letter to be sent to Lauren Brown*

\* 18) Monroe Co.--Fults Hill Nature Preserve addition (125 acres)

Prior action: High priority listing adopted 26-19(R90); acquisition  
recommended 29-25(R107)

*add tules slope*

Dedication of the Krebel tract is proposed as an addition to Fults Nature  
Preserve.

*Dept. wants to plan  
development and reach  
agreement plan before  
dedication*

REPORT

Schwegman

*Fall wants 4-acre exception included in buffer zone. Experience of Castle Rock  
Question of authority of Dept. vs. Commission.  
mutual distrust of Dept. & Commission.*

ACTION

Preliminary approval of dedication

\* 19) Pulaski Co.--Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve, collecting permit

Prior action: Collection by Dr. Brandon of dusky salamanders, with  
certain provisions, approved 61-19(R424)

The Endangered Species Protection Board has recommended that the permit  
to Dr. Brandon be revoked because of the rarity of the species.

*Original permit ~~revoked~~  
maintained, suggest to send to  
ESB details of deliberation involved in past before approval was granted*

ACTION

To be considered

Johnson Co.--Little Black Blough Interim Management Plan  
(Distributed with 60th meeting agenda)

ACTION

To be considered

REPORT

Schwagman

Lake Co.--Lake Forest Open Land Area (250 Acres) Prairie & Woodland  
Prior action: Dedication approved in principle 60-11(410)

ACTION

Preliminary approval of dedication  
of nature preserve (25 acres) and buffer

REPORT

Paulson

Lake Co.--Marion C. Carlson Nature Preserve buffer area (85 acres)  
Prior action: Preliminary approval of dedication of buffer area 57-16(8385)

ACTION

Final approval of dedication of buffer  
area

REPORT

Paulson

Mason Co.--Sand Ridge State Forest

Consideration of recommendation from Lawrence E. Brown that habitat of  
Illinois mud turtle (*Desmarestia flavescens*) be dedicated as  
a nature preserve.

ACTION

To be considered

REPORT

Birkenholz & Schwagman

Monte Co.--Fults Hill Nature Preserve addition (125 acres)  
Prior action: High priority listing adopted 56-19(R90); acquisition  
recommended 59-23(R107)

Dedication of the Kibel tract is proposed as an addition to Fults Nature  
Preserve.

ACTION

Preliminary approval of dedication

REPORT

Schwagman

Putnam Co.--Chestnut Hill Nature Preserve collection permit

Prior action: Collection by Dr. Brandon of dusky salamanders, with  
certain provisions, approved 61-19(R424)

The Endangered Species Protection Board has recommended that the permit  
to Dr. Brandon be revoked because of the rarity of the species.

ACTION

To be considered



# \* 20) Will Co.--Thorn Creek Woods

Prior action: Dedication recommended 62-10(R429)

Will County Forest Preserve District tract (65 acres)

Village of Park Forest tract (58 acres)

Village of Park Forest South tract (132 acres)

REPORT  
Paulson

ACTION

*Approved*

Preliminary approval of dedication

*Dept. doing a master plan of the land in their ownership and for land they are acquiring*

\* 21) Winnebago Co.--Airport (Bell Bowl) Prairie, Winnebago County

Prior action: Discussion and agreement that Commission should continue to help preserve the prairie 21-12, 5/16/68

Implementation of the Master Plan for Greater Rockford Airport would destroy a portion of the Airport Prairie, a significant natural area. Commission staff has commented on the plan.

*Airboard not too willing to cooperate w/regard to prairie*

REPORT  
Thom

ACTION

To be considered

*motion to direct chairman to write letter and to urge Board to preserve prairie.*

22) Other areas

23) Other business

24) Adjournment

\* 20) Will Co.--Thorn Creek Woods  
Prior action: Dedication recommended 62-10(R429)

Will County Forest Preserve District tract (65 acres)

Village of Park Forest tract (58 acres)

Village of Park Forest South tract (132 acres)

ACTION

REPORT

Paulson

Preliminary approval of dedication  
Part of a larger tract in the land in their ownership and for food  
the no spraying

\* 21) Winnebago Co.--Airport (Bell Bowl) Prairie, Winnebago County  
Prior action: Discussion and agreement that Commission should continue  
to help preserve the prairie 21-12, 2/15/68

Implementation of the Master Plan for Greater Rockford Airport would  
destroy a portion of the Airport Prairie, a significant natural area.  
Commission staff has commented on the plan.

ACTION

REPORT

Thom

To be considered

22) Other areas

23) Other business

24) Adjournment



## ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF SIXTY-SECOND MEETING

February 25, 1977

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ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SIXTY-SECOND MEETING

(Subject to approval of the Commission at 63rd meeting)

Field Museum of Natural History

Chicago, Illinois

10:20 a.m., February 25, 1977

62-1) Call to order:

The meeting convened at 10:20 a.m. pursuant to the call of Chairman Birkenholz.

Members present: Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz, Warren DeWalt, Dr. James S. Fralish, Gordon Graves, Dr. Alan Haney, Dr. Stanley E. Harris and Dr. Peter Schramm.

Members absent: Dr. John Ebinger and Frederick Kalivoda.

Others present: Dr. George Sprugel, Chief, Illinois Natural History Survey, Advisor; Dr. Robert Betz, Northeastern Illinois University, Consultant; George B. Fell, Executive Secretary, Max Hutchison, Gerald Paulson and Richard Thom, Field Representatives, and Peter C. Reilly III, Staff Assistant, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; John Schwegman, Marlin Bowles, Robert Schanzle and Andy West, Natural Areas Section, Department of Conservation; Charles Tamminga, Associate Director, Lands & Historic Sites, Department of Conservation; Dr. Alfred Koelling, Illinois State Museum; Dr. Kenneth Robertson, Illinois Natural History Survey; Neil Gaston, Director, Illinois Chapter, The Nature Conservancy; John Bacone, Field Representative, Natural Areas Inventory; Darrell Johnson, Naturalist, Illinois Beach State Park; April Young, Director, Open Lands Project; Gordon Goodman, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission; Paula Domoracki; Pam Rogash; Mary Lou Marzuki; Dr. Jon Mendelson; Robert D. Fulmer and Jim Martyn, Illinois Field Archers. Mr. Tamminga left at 2:00 p.m. Messrs Fulmer and Martyn arrived at 11:05 a.m. and left at 1:30 p.m.

62-2) Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Dr. Haney, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried, that the draft agenda be adopted subject to change of sequence by the Chairman.

62-3) Approval of 61st meeting minutes:

It was moved by Dr. Harris, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, that the minutes of the 61st meeting, held in Springfield on December 10, 1976 be approved.

62-4) Financial report:

Mr. Fell presented the following statement of Commission expenses for the period from July 1, 1976 - January 31, 1977:

Expenses incurred on behalf of the Illinois Nature  
Preserves Commission by members and Natural Land Institute

Travel, Commission members \$ 822.30

Contractual services

Personal services	\$27,376.71	
Employee benefits	4,106.51	
Unemployment compensation liability	51.30	
Insurance	100.92	
Travel, personnel	2,377.42	
Rent, utilities & maintenance	1,736.00	
Rental, office equipment	595.00	
Telephone	1,278.75	
Postage	466.32	
Office supplies	156.75	
Field supplies	133.69	
Books, maps, photos	242.61	
Duplicating & paper	340.56	
Meeting expense	204.37	
Miscellaneous	7.00	
		<u>39,173.91</u>
		<u>\$39,996.21</u>

Cash disbursements from General Revenue Fund appropriation

Administration, including protection of areas		
Travel, Commission members	\$ 822.30	
Contract Project 1	22,375.90	
Biennial report		
Contract Project 2	205.71	
Preservation, including acquisition and dedication		
Contract Project 3	11,393.59	
Rare & endangered species		
Contract Project 4	2,893.44	
Management		
Contract Project 5	<u>2,226.18</u>	
		<u>\$39,917.12</u>
Difference between expenses incurred and amount reimbursed	\$ 79.09	
7-month apportionment from appropriation	\$41,475.00	
Amount disbursed	<u>39,917.12</u>	
Surplus for period	\$ 1,557.88	



62-5) General report of INPC staff:

Staff activities: A summary of staff activities for December and January was distributed.

Status of dedications: Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve, Winnebago County (44 acres) has been approved by the Department and the Governor.

New advisors: Dr. David Kenney is the new Director of the Department of Conservation. Dr. Bruce McMillan is the new Director of the Illinois State Museum, replacing Dr. Milton Thompson, who has retired.

Special use permits: Six special use permits have been approved since the last meeting.

Illinois Environmental Council annual meeting: The annual meeting of the Illinois Environmental Council will be held on February 26, 1977 at Millikin University, Decatur. A workshop on natural area preservation is planned for the morning session with Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz, Jerry Paulson, Neil Gaston, and John Schwegman serving on the panel.

Frankfort Cemetery, Will County: The Frankfort Cemetery Association is considering dedication of this mesic black soil prairie as a nature preserve. Dr. William Zales, Joliet Junior College, and Dr. Robert Betz have taken over the management responsibilities for the prairie portion of the cemetery. The area was identified by the Natural Areas Inventory staff.

Illinois Forestry Plan: Mr. Thom presented comments on a forestry plan for Illinois to the Illinois Technical Forestry Association at a meeting in Springfield on February 17. The suggestions included the recognition and preservation of natural areas, protection and management of rare and endangered species, and the preservation of the natural diversity of the State.

Big Creek Watershed, Hardin County: Mr. Hutchison reported on his efforts to protect the natural character of the Big Creek Watershed, Hardin County. He has met with the Forest Service, regional personnel of the Department of Conservation, and individuals and submitted a series of articles on Big Creek for publication in a local newspaper. There is still need for stronger local support for protection of the watershed from development. Dr. Birkenholz urged Mr. Hutchison to continue to work on Big Creek.

62-6) General report of Conservation Department staff:

Mr. Schwegman reported on the following matters:

Nature Preserve Directory: 400 copies of the new Directory of Nature Preserves have been mailed since the last meeting.

Land acquisition: The condemnation of the Jones property at Volo Bog has been completed.

Slide show on nature preserves: Marlin Bowles has prepared a slide show on the nature preserves system that will be available for loan from the Department's Regional Offices and Springfield.

Computer school: Robert Schanzle has completed two courses in computer school to prepare for working with the Natural Areas Inventory data.

Permit review by Natural Areas Section: The Section has begun providing comments on Corps of Engineers and Division of Waterways permit applications. Several natural areas have already been identified and protected because of this new activity.

Federal Natural Heritage Program: The Natural Areas Section submitted to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, a list of Illinois areas to be considered under a Federal Natural Heritage Program that may be proposed by the Carter Administration.

Mr. Tamminga reported on the following:

New Conservation Director: Dr. David Kenney, a professor of political Science at Southern Illinois University, has been named by Governor Thompson as Director of the Department of Conservation.

Castle Rock State Park, Ogle County: A committee of horse riders wants to have Castle Rock State Park developed for horse trails. The Department of Conservation has offered to work with them to find alternative areas on Department lands for horse trails. The Department would prefer to find an alternate site for this activity.

62-7) Starved Rock Nature Preserve, LaSalle County:

Mr. Tamminga reported that on January 6, 1977 the Department of Conservation had removed the buildings and equipment of the Illini Field Archers from the nature preserve and stored them at the park headquarters. This was done pursuant to the notification to vacate given to the Illini Field Archers by former Conservation Director John McGuire on December 1, 1976. The Illini Field Archers had protested the action and Mr. Tamminga had suggested they could present their case to the Nature Preserves Commission.

Mr. Fulmer and Mr. Martyn requested, in behalf of the Illini Field Archers, that the State undedicate about 28 acres of the nature preserve so that the area could continue to be used as an archery range.

The Field Archers had occupied the area since 1955. They initially secured a lease from William C. Currie, an adjoining landowner, but actually the land they thought they had leased belonged to the State. They secured permission from the Department of Conservation to use the State-owned land to reach the land they occupied. In 1962 they secured permission from the Department to expand the range into an additional 14 acres of adjoining State land.

The subject property had been donated to the State by the Blow Estate in 1944, to be used exclusively for "park and recreation purposes". The area was dedicated as a nature preserve in 1967. In 1973 the Department requested the Field Archers to vacate the area and, after negotiations, had agreed they could continue to occupy the site until the Department had selected a location for a public archery range. Two sites subsequently proposed by the Department were turned down by the Illini Field Archers as unsuitable.



The Commission had on October 3, 1973 reaffirmed its position that the area occupied by the archery range is worthy of nature preserve status and that the Department should terminate its use as an archery range.

Mr. Fulmer said that about 7 acres of the 28-acre area was actually occupied and directly affected by the archery range facilities. He said the Archers have always practiced good conservation and their range has served as a buffer zone to protect the rest of the State land from adverse uses. They feel the action of the Department in removing their equipment and buildings from the site was improper. They would still consider an alternate site, but they consider the sites suggested to date to be unacceptable. They felt their archery range was a proper recreational use and that use as a nature preserve does not qualify under the deed restriction of "park and recreation purposes".

Dr. Birkenholz and Mr. Fell said the preservation of natural conditions is a major purpose of State parks under Illinois law and dedication of areas within State parks as nature preserves is a means of helping to carry out this purpose. They said the Department dedicated the Starved Rock Nature Preserve with this objective because of its outstanding scenic and natural attributes and that hiking and observation of nature and scenery are recreational activities that can be carried out on a nature preserve.

Mr. Schwegman said the area occupied by the archery range is about the only undeveloped level upland forest left in the park. He said the area adds to the diversity of the nature preserve and that it is of nature preserve quality.

There followed a general discussion of the matter.

The meeting was recessed at 12:05 p.m. for lunch. It was reconvened at 1:05 p.m. and the discussion about the archery range continued.

Upon motion by Dr. Haney, seconded by Mr. DeWalt, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission reaffirms its position that the part of Starved Rock Nature Preserve that has been used as an archery range should be maintained as a nature preserve and suggests that the Department of Conservation continue to make every possible effort to locate an alternate site for an archery range.

(Resolution 428)

Upon adoption of the resolution, Mr. Fulmer stated that the Archers will seek legal action on the basis of lack of due process in the Department's removal of the club's buildings and equipment and on the basis of the stipulations in the deed.

62-8) Budget, FY78:

Mr. Tamminga reported that the Department's proposed FY78 capital budget of 5 million dollars contains 3 million dollars for land acquisition. The operating budget is 105% of last year. The budget provides for part of the money for operations to come from grants received by the State from the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund.

The line item for the Nature Preserves Commission budget has been set at \$78,200, compared with \$71,100 for FY77. Mr. Fell pointed out that at present the Commission staff is working part-time on the Natural Areas Inventory and that the Inventory work will be terminating during FY78. This will result in inability to sustain the staff if the budget level is \$78,200.

Mr. Tamminga said the Natural Areas Section is budgeted at about \$98,000, compared with \$93,000 for FY77. This will allow for the present level of staffing with normal step increases in salaries.

There was expression of concern by the Commission over the prospect of reducing Commission staff at a time when the results of the Natural Areas Inventory would create an immediate need for additional staff. Some members questioned the Department's priorities in funding, suggesting that budget cuts should be absorbed by closing sites so that the public realizes that services have been affected by the cuts. To economize only in the areas that are less conspicuous to the public, such as the Nature Preserves Commission staff, does not show the public that a funding problem exists.

62-9) Proposed Natural Heritage Preservation Bill:

Mr. Tamminga commented briefly on the proposed Natural Heritage Bill drafted by the Commission staff. He felt that some features of the bill have merit but that there are several points that should be considered in further detail by the Department and Commission before the bill is introduced. Further discussion of the bill was deferred until later in the meeting (Item 27).

62-10) Thorn Creek Woods, Will County:

Mr. Paulson reported on progress in acquiring and planning for development and use of Thorn Creek Woods. Most of the area has now been acquired by the Department of Conservation, Will County Forest Preserve District, Village of Park Forest, and Village of Park Forest South. An inter-agency Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission is being formed to manage the area.

The Department of Conservation is preparing a master plan for the area. The Management Commission has proposed dedication of a 500-acre area whose boundaries are shown on a map dated January 19, 1977. The proposed nature preserve is in four ownerships, and some of the land has not yet been acquired. It includes upland, bottomland, and ravine forests; prairie; glacial potholes and ponds; about 1.4 miles of Thorn Creek; and significant geologic features representative of the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The area proposed for dedication includes all of the lands the Commission proposed as a nature preserve in its 1971 report to the General Assembly plus a large area of upland white oak woods



which represents one of the few remaining large tracts of this forest type in north-eastern Illinois. My Paulson recommended the Commission endorse dedication of the areas proposed by the Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission.

Mrs. Marzuki, past president of the Thorn Creek Woods Preservation Association, gave a brief history of preservation of the area.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Mr. DeWalt, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends dedication as a nature preserve of that part of Thorn Creek Woods proposed for dedication by the Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission on January 19, 1977.

(Resolution 429)

62-11) Report of Natural Areas Inventory staff:

Mr. Bacone read a report from John White on the progress of the Inventory from December 1976 through February 1977. The aerial photo survey has been completed in 73 counties and has been started in 11 other counties. Efforts have also begun on inventorying geologic areas, school natural areas, habitats of endangered species, and relict areas. Dr. H. B. Willman of the Illinois State Geological Survey is working on geologic areas. The Illinois Natural History Survey is providing advice and information about aquatic areas, habitats with endangered species, and terrestrial natural areas.

62-12) Rare and endangered species study:

Mr. Reilly reported that the Natural Land Institute is optimistic about obtaining a grant to inventory rare and endangered vascular plants and vertebrate animals of Illinois. If the project is funded, it would be undertaken in cooperation with the Natural Areas Inventory, the Department of Conservation and the Commission.

62-13) Photo station policy:

Mr. Bowles presented his completed report on the policy on photo stations to monitor natural areas. Implementation of the policy on Department nature preserves will begin this year.

Upon motion by Dr. Schramm, seconded by Dr. Harris, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission endorses the photo station policy prepared by the Natural Areas Section for use on Illinois nature preserves.

(Resolution 430)

62-14) Infrared aerial photography:

Mr. Bowles reported that the Department will experiment with infrared aerial photography as a vegetation monitoring tool. Infrared photography produces color photographs that differentiate between growing and dead vegetation, and it should have great value in evaluating such things as prairie burns. The method will be used this spring to take aerial photos of the prairie management burns at Goose Lake Prairie and Illinois Beach State parks.

62-15) Burning management on Department nature preserves:

Mr. Schanzle reported on the proposed prairie burning programs for this spring. Burning of portions of Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve, Reavis Nature Preserve, Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Fults Hill Nature Preserve, Harlem Hills Nature Preserve, Rockton Nature Preserve, Castle Rock Nature Preserve and Illinois Beach Nature Preserve is proposed. It was agreed the burning program should proceed as planned.

62-16) Effects of severe winter on wildlife:

Mr. Graves reported that he had observed disastrous effects of the severe winter weather on fish and wildlife in northern Illinois. There is probably 100% fish kill in many ponds and streams. He was concerned that the winter might have adversely affected some endangered species such as the Indiana bat, prairie chicken and dusky salamander. Dr. Sprugel commented on the compounding problem of low water levels in central Illinois.

Dr. Birkenholz asked Mr. West to check the dusky salamanders at Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve this spring to assure that there is a healthy population prior to commencement of Dr. Ronald Brandon's collecting project.

62-17) Procedures for preserving natural areas:

Mr. Schwegman presented a schematic chart prepared by The Nature Conservancy hypothesizing the relative expense and effectiveness of different preservation alternatives such as notification, registration, easement, dedication, and fee simple acquisition. He expressed concern that a plan should be formulated for work on preservation of lands identified by the Natural Areas Inventory.

Mr. Fell said the staff has done preliminary work on developing a plan. Only a limited amount of data from the Inventory is yet available for analysis. Many of the areas identified by the Inventory are already on public land or are on private land and have already been worked on by the Commission staff. The development of plans and procedures and the contacting of landowners is a time consuming job, and it will be difficult to do with the available staff, while at the same time carrying on other necessary activities.

Following discussion by the Commission, it was decided that the Natural Areas Section and the Nature Preserves Commission staff should continue to review the Natural Areas Inventory data and to work together on developing methods of preserving these areas.



62-18) Future meeting arrangements:

The following schedule of dates and places for meetings during 1977 was adopted:

May 6 at 1 p.m. and May 7 -- Dixon Springs State Park, Dixon Springs  
July 15 -- Illinois State University, Normal.  
October 7 and 8 -- Apple River Canyon State Park, Apple River.  
December 7 -- Nature Preserves Commission Office, Rockford

62-19) Election of consultants:

It was moved by Dr. Schramm, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried that Dr. Robert Betz, Dr. Margery C. Carlson, Dr. Robert Evers, Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh and Edmund B. Thornton be re-elected consultants.

62-20) Biennial Report, 1975-1976:

The Commission's biennial report for 1975-1976 is due May 1. Mr. Thom discussed plans for the report which will feature the work and implications of the Natural Areas Inventory and the need for additional resources to follow through with preservation efforts. It was agreed the staff should proceed with drafting of the report.

62-21) Classification of nature preserves:

There was discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of classifying nature preserves into various use categories.

After discussion, the matter was referred to the staffs of the Commission and the Natural Areas Section with the request that they continue working on it.

62-22) Myer Woods, Bureau County:

Mr. Thom reported on this 20-acre old growth woods that is owned by the Princeton Park District. The woods is composed of large, old trees and shows no direct evidence of logging or grazing. It is representative of dry-mesic forest of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The Natural Areas Inventory studied Myer Woods in 1975 and recommended consideration of the area by the Commission staff. The Princeton Park District is interested in dedicating the woods as an Illinois nature preserve.

Upon motion by Dr. Haney, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission gives preliminary approval to dedication as a nature preserve of the following described real property located in Bureau County, Illinois:

Lot 3 of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Bureau County, Illinois, according to the Plat thereof recorded November 25, 1867 in Book A of Plats, page 32 as #44039, being the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, containing 20 acres, more or less.

(Resolution 431)

62-23) Wauconda Bog Nature Preserve, Lake County:

Mr. Schwegman reported that the Department of Conservation is considering conveying Wauconda Bog Nature Preserve to the Lake County Forest Preserve District in exchange for Spring Bluff Forest Preserve which would become an addition to Illinois Beach State Park.

It was agreed that the Commission would have no objection if the preserve were transferred subject to the articles of dedication and the master plan. The Lake County Forest Preserve District already owns Ryerson Nature Preserve and is familiar with nature preserve management.

62-24) Oak Valley Eagle Sanctuary, Rock Island County:

Mr. Thom reported that the National Wildlife Federation, with the help of Illinois Audubon Society and others, is acquiring about 225 acres of critical bald eagle winter roose habitat along the Mississippi River to be used as an eagle sanctuary. About 40-60 wintering eagles use the area as a night roost. In addition to its importance as critical bald eagle habitat, portions of the proposed sanctuary are of high natural quality and represent mesic ravine forest of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division.

Preliminary study shows that about 120 acres of the proposed sanctuary would qualify for dedication, and additional land could be dedicated as buffer.

In a letter from Conservation Director McGuire, the Department agreed to accept management of the area if it is dedicated as a nature preserve.

Upon motion by Mr. DeWalt, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends dedication as a nature preserve of suitable portions of real property in Sections 9 and 10, Township 18 North, Range 1 East of the 4th Principal Meridian, in Rock Island County, Illinois, to provide a refuge for bald eagles and to preserve the natural forest ecosystem.

(Resolution 432)



62-25) Spring Grove Cemetery, Warren County:

Mr. Thom reported that the Trustees of Spring Grove Cemetery, who are almost all faculty members of the Monmouth College Biology Department, are interested in dedicating the cemetery as a nature preserve. The area is about one acre in size and was identified by the Natural Areas Inventory as one of the 27 best cemetery prairies out of 3,923 cemeteries that were studied in the State.

Dr. Betz reported that the area had good diversity and was definitely worthy of dedication.

Dr. Schramm mentioned that he uses the cemetery with his classes and that he thinks it may have the deepest virgin black soil of any prairie in the State.

The Monmouth College Biology Department manages the prairie with periodic burning and brush removal. The college uses the cemetery extensively for class field study and research.

Upon motion by Dr. Haney, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission gives preliminary approval to the dedication as a nature preserve of the Spring Grove Cemetery Prairie, located in the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 2 West of the 4th P.M., Warren County, Illinois.

(Resolution 433)

62-26) Harlem Hills Nature Preserve, Winnebago County:

Mr. Fell reported that the Winnebago County Superintendent of Highways and the Loves Park Planning Commission have proposed three alternate routes for the proposed extension of Windsor Road through the Harlem Hills Nature Preserve. One of the routes would use an existing undeveloped road easement and would divide the preserve into two parts. A second alternative, the cheapest of the three, would also use the existing road easement bisecting the area but in addition would involve some nature preserve land. The third alternative would avoid bisecting the area but would occupy part of the south edge of the preserve. There is no immediate plan to build the road, but the local officials feel a decision on alignment should be made before they approve a subdivision plat for land to the south and east of the preserve.

Upon discussion, it was agreed in principle that the southerly alignment was preferable since it avoids bisecting the preserve, even though it would intrude on the edge of the preserve. Mr. Fell will continue discussions on this matter with the agencies involved.

62-27) Proposed Natural Heritage Preservation Bill:

Discussion about the proposed Natural Heritage Preservation Bill was continued. The bill would revise the laws pertaining to the nature preserves system

and create a register of natural areas. It was agreed that the bill should be introduced after further improvements are made in it.

Upon motion by Dr. Haney, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission approves in principle the draft Natural Heritage Preservation Bill and directs the staff to continue work on drafting the bill in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and others and to submit the revised draft to the Commission members prior to its introduction in the General Assembly.

(Resolution 434)

62-28) Adjournment:

At the hour of 4:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Peter Schramm  
Secretary



## Major Staff Activities

Natural Areas Section  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
December 11, 1976 to May 6, 1977

### Public Relations & Information

Presented program on the Natural Areas Inventory at the annual meeting of the Sangamon Conservation Council.

Provided radio interviews concerning prairie burning as a management tool, progress of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, and mushroom collecting in Illinois.

Presented a program concerning Little Black Slough to the District 7 Garden Club of Illinois at Shawnee College.

Addressed an Outdoor Recreation Management class at S.I.U. on natural area management.

Conducted wildflower walk at Sam Dale Lake Conservation Area for school children.

Presented program on the nature preserves system to the Association of High School Biology Teachers.

Conducted a nature walk at the Starved Rock Wildflower Pilgrimage.

Prepared a nature preserve slide program for use by district biologists and interested groups.

Compiled proceedings of the 1976 Midwest Natural Areas Workshop.

Worked jointly with a Commission representative and departmental Information and Education Specialist on preparation of a brochure and program for landowner contacts.

Presented natural areas program to the Sesser Garden Club.

Spoke to the Shawnee College Wildlife Club on Wildlife of Heron Pond and Little Black Slough.

Assisted with interviews of potential summer interpreters for southern Illinois nature preserves.

### Meetings Attended

"OIKOS" meeting concerning restoration of natural cycles at Morton Arboretum. (Bowles)

Joint meeting of the ASB and ASEB at Raleigh, N.C. The meeting included a natural areas symposium. (Bowles)

Meetings Attended (continued)

Wildlife Society meetings in Carbondale, January 21 and 22. (entire staff)

Division of Lands Supervisory Staff Meeting in Olney. (Schanzle)

Division of Lands Supervisory Staff Meeting in Springfield. (Schanzle & Schwegman)

Endangered Species Board meetings in Chicago and Springfield. (Schwegman)

*Board mostly involved with trade of animals*

Attended Environmental Council Annual Meeting and presented program on Departmental roles in nature preserve management. (Schwegman)

Attended Metropolitan Sanitary District meeting on May 7 and testified for preservation of Lockport Prairie. (Schwegman)

Annual meeting of the Illinois Academy of Science in St. Louis. (Bowles & Schwegman)  
Presented paper on endangered plants.

Attended 1977 Urban Pesticide Applicator's Clinics and earned Applicator's Licenses. (Schanzle & West)

Quarterly Environmental Advisory Board Meeting of the Department of Transportation in Carbondale. (West)

Testified at a public meeting on the Wildcat Bluff Road abandonment. (West)

Management

Met with Wabash County Road Commissioner concerning road realignment at Beall Woods.

Met with researchers at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve to lay out sampling areas for prescribed burning study.

Conducted prescribed burns of 15 prairie areas for a total of 1,531 acres.

Reviewed Departmental involvement in the Oak Valley Eagle Sanctuary.

Negotiated for protection of the Orchid Hill Area on Illinois Power lands in Vermilion County.

Inspected mining beneath Beall Woods property at the Amax Coal Wabash Mine.

Met with Region V resource staff and Max Hutchison concerning protection of the Big Creek Watershed.

Met with Corps of Engineers representatives to institute protection of a Massasauga colony at Carlyle Lake.

Treated approximately 2 acres of honeysuckle at Round Bluff Nature Preserve.



Management (continued)

Posted and settled agricultural trespass problem at Posen Woods Nature Preserve.  
Conducted census of dusky salamander at Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve.  
Evaluated habitat and conducted census of Plantago cordata at Lake Murphysboro.  
Evaluated current status of Island Grove.

Planning & Inventory

Attended task force meetings and/or provided input to the Sanganois-Barkhausen, Lincoln's New Salem, Giant City, Ferne Clyffe, Apple River Canyon, and Starved Rock Master Plans.

Defined final data format for the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory.

Completed computer training courses and began work with the inventory data system.

Responded to 15 requests for data from the inventory including major reports to the National Park Service.

Met with the Natural History Survey to coordinate their assistance with the inventory.

Flew the Middle Illinois River Valley with inventory staff in search of seep springs.

Outlined the natural areas section of the 1977 SCORP.

Reviewed the engineering feasibility of restoring Kidd Lake.

Reviewed draft natural heritage preservation legislation.

Completed notable features files for southern Illinois natural areas.

Provided input to the study of the Mississippi Kite. (with Dick Graber)

Assisted SCS personnel in planning of the Upper Cache River Watershed.

Met with Corps of Engineers representatives concerning the Smithland Dam Project.

Met with U.S. Fish & Wildlife representatives to discuss the status of Mermet and Horseshoe Lake Nature Preserves.

Met with Southern 5 Planning Commission concerning the environmental impacts of a proposed sewage treatment plant at Cypress near Little Black Slough.

Acquisition, Dedication, & Preservation

Participated in two negotiating sessions with the owner of Spring Bay Bog.

Testified at a hearing to dismiss condemnation of tract 17 at Chauncey Marsh.

Land Acquired:

Chauncey Marsh

Tharp	35.00 acres
Jacobs (optioned)	40.00 acres

Piney Creek

Tegtmeyer(optioned)	42.00 acres
E.R.&B(optioned)	86.30 acres

Thorn Creek Woods

Warrents requested on:	
Seidelmann	7.80 acres
Childs	5.00 acres
Lewis	1.21 acres
Dodd	4.57 acres

Volo-Wilson Bog

Jones	13.26 acres
Gaylor	5.02 acres



PREScribed BURNING PROGRAM - 1977

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Acres Burned</u>
2/22	Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve	.5
3/9	Marshall County Conservation Area	5.0
3/10	Starved Rock State Park	2.0
3/14	Moraine Hills State Park	20.0
3/16	Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve	145.0
3/17	Castle Rock Nature Preserve	2.0
3/23	Reavis Nature Preserve	25.0
3/24	Harlem Hills Nature Preserve	10.0
3/25	Mississippi River Sand Hills Nature Preserve and Kibbe Field Station ( <i>No Map Available</i> )	?
3/25	Siloam Springs State Park	3.0
3/30	Kankakee River State Park	15.0
4/1	Chain O' Lakes State Park	15.0
4/18	Des Plaines Conservation Area	120.0
4/19 & 4/26	Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve ( <i>No Map Available</i> )	980.0
4/19	Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve	8.0
	Iroquois County Conservation Area	<u>100.0</u>





Summary of 1977 Wildfire at  
Illinois Beach Nature Preserve  
by  
Marlin Bowles

On Easter Sunday, April 16, 1977, approximately 700 acres of the 829-acre Illinois Beach Nature Preserve burned. The fire began between 3 and 4 p.m. on private land west of the preserve. It crossed the railroad tracks at the southwest corner and from there burned all portions of the preserve south of the Dead River plus 20 acres of dune vegetation (primarily Juniperus horizontalis and Juniperus communis var. depressa) north of the Dead River.

At the time of the burn the fire danger was extremely high with 20 m.p.h. winds out of the southwest. According to reports, the fire was intensely hot and crossed the preserve in about 15 minutes with flames 15 feet high; the fire carried through the old pine grove, crowning out in the dense trees on the east side and finally dying out in the sparse vegetation on the Lake Michigan foredunes. At the southeast corner of the preserve, the fire crossed an interdunal pond near the lake shore (which in the past functioned as a natural firebreak) but also died out due to lack of fuel before reaching the lake. The fire was extinguished by park personnel in the marsh west of Dead River near the northwest corner of the preserve. The fire crossed the Dead River near Lake Michigan where it was finally stopped by park personnel and local firemen, preventing its spread northward along the lake foredunes.

Although total tree mortality cannot be determined until later in the growing season, some estimates can be made. Ecologically, this may have been the most significant fire since the original planting of the old grove, with woody succession from Pinus sylvestris and Pinus nigra being set back as much as 25% to 50%. The fire crowned out in about 5% of the old mature trees and probably killed the foliage on another 30% of the old trees. A number of the trees burned through at the base and toppled. The eventual mortality of mature trees should vary between 5% and 40% depending upon resistance of the cambium to heat and the survival of meristematic tissue in crown buds. Intermediate sized trees survived where they were isolated but those growing in close stands were almost completely defoliated by crown fires while many others were probably killed by heat damage alone. Approximately 60% of the intermediate sized trees may have been killed. Almost 100% of the seedlings and saplings were killed with only a few isolated trees appearing alive.

The 10 to 20 acres of dune vegetation burned north of the Dead River was primarily the Juniperus species and Andropogon scoparius. Both species of Juniperus were almost completely killed within the burned area. The total mortality represents almost 25% of the total preserve population of sand binding J. horizontalis and possibly 50% of the less common J. communis var. depressa population. The loss is significant, with recovery of both species expected to be long term.

continued...

The other natural communities outside of the old grove appear to have suffered little damage and essentially benefited from the fire. Heat intolerant species such as Arctostaphylos uva-ursi and Juniperus species are not abundant south of the Dead River due to periodic past fires and thus were not affected. The fire was apparently very hot and consumed all burnable material except for a few Typha sp. stands around swales. The only native species apparently affected was Andropogon scoparius. Its root hummocks protrude above the general level of the sand ridges where they are susceptible to fire; many of these plants are not sprouting and appear dead.

An inspection of the burn site on the day following the burn revealed a complete absence of dead wildlife. No injured or killed animals or burned nests were observed. The preserve supports a deer population, and several witnesses reported foxes swimming the Dead River in front of the fire. Damage to the mounds of the prairie thatch building ant (Formica sp.) was observed. The thatch coverings of the ant mounds were completely burned and the population should be expected to decrease due to the almost complete consumption of thatch material by the fire.

It should be noted that the burn was an uncontrolled wild fire under high fire danger conditions. The implementation of a prescribed burn under controlled conditions would have allowed the consumption of ground vegetation only, thus preventing the buildup of litter and a fire of this type. The execution of such a burn this spring would have prevented the Easter Sunday Fire.











to: File

from: John Schwegman *J.S.*

date: May 2, 1977

subject: Coal Mining Beneath Beall Woods Property

On March 22, Max Hutchison of the Nature Preserves Commission and I visited Amax Coal's Wabash mine to inspect mining progress under state land. We wanted to assure ourselves that the company is adhering to the mining plan and check on the general appearance of the area.

Mining has not reached a point beneath Beall Woods as yet. Progress is slowed by a series of northeast trending faults that have been encountered under the southwest part of the property. These faults have caused vertical displacement of the seam by as much as 6 or 7 feet. They also pinch the coal out completely in some places and make for poor roof conditions generally. It is expected that mining will be slowed for some time until this zone is passed. Only one crew is working the area at present.

The plan calls for mining a maximum of 18' passages on an 80' grid. They are actually mining only 16' passages for safety purposes and some 14' passages where roof conditions are not good. One passage we actually measured was 17' wide. The coal forming the walls is bolted to prevent chunks of coal from spalling as a result of pressure.

It was my conclusion that mining is well within the limits of the agreed upon plan. I plan another inspection next winter at which time I would have expected them to have reached the woods.

JES:11h

cc: Andy West  
George Fell  
Max Hutchison



INPC 62  
Item 8

SENATE BILL 1091

SB 1091

80th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
State of Illinois

1977 and 1978

INTRODUCED 4-8-77, BY Mitchler, Savickas,  
Shapiro AMENDED  
Weaver  
Dass  
Sofer

SYNOPSIS: (Ch. 8, pars. 2, 3, 5 and 7)

Amends the Endangered Species Protection Act. Expands the definition of "Endangered Species" to mean any species of plant or animal contained in the Federal Endangered Species list issued under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. Furthermore, the definition of "threatened" is added to the Act. The Department of Conservation is empowered to issue a limited permit authorizing the possession or purchase of animal products listed as endangered species to any person or group which had such products in its possession prior to the effective date of this Act. The Endangered Species Protection Board may designate or remove the designation of endangered or threatened for any species for which there is scientific evidence that its wild or natural populations are no longer endangered.

LRB80-5226-AW/jp

A BILL FOR





1 AN ACT to amend Sections 2, 3, 5 and 7 of the "Illinois 11  
2 Endangered Species Act", approved October 1, 1972, as 12  
3 amended.

4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, 14  
5 represented in the General Assembly: 15

6 Section 1. Sections 2, 3, 5 and 7 of the "Illinois 17  
7 Endangered Species Act", approved October 1, 1972, as 18  
8 amended, are amended to read as follows:

(Ch. 8, par. 332) 20

9 Sec. 2. As used in this Act the following words have the 23  
10 following meanings:

11 "Board" means the Endangered Species Protection Board 25  
12 created by this Act. 26

13 "Department" means the Department of Conservation and 28

14 "Director" means the director of that Department. 29

15 "Endangered Species" means any the species of plant or 31  
16 animal contained in the Federal Endangered Species list 32  
17 issued under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and 33  
18 amendments animals-listed-in-this--Section plus such other 34  
19 species as the Board deems to be in danger of extinction. 35

20 ~~This includes but is not limited to the following species:~~  
21 ~~leopard--Panthera--pardus--Snow--leopard--Panthera--unicat~~ 36  
22 ~~Clouded-leopard--Neofelis-nebulosus--Tiger--Panthera--tigris~~ 37  
23 ~~Cheetah--Acinonyx-jubatus--Alligators--Gaiman--Crocodiles--and~~ 38  
24 ~~all--other--members--of--the--Order--Crocodylia--Vicuna--Vicugna~~ 39  
25 ~~vicuener--Red-Wolf--Canis-niger--gray-wolf--Canis-lupus--Polar~~  
26 ~~Bear--Phalacrotes-maritimus--Mountain-Lion--sometimes--called~~ 40  
27 ~~Cougar--Felis-concolor--Jaguar--Panthera-onca--Bobcat--Felis~~ 41  
28 ~~pardalis--Margay--Felis-wiedii--Desert--Kit--Fox--Vulpes~~ 42  
29 ~~macrotis--Kit--or--Swift--Fox--Vulpes-velox--Pacific-Ridley~~  
30 ~~Turtle--or--Warana--Lepidochelys--olivacea--or--Green--Turtle~~ 43  
31 ~~Chelonia-mydas~~

32 "Threatened" means any species which is likely to become 45





1 an endangered species within the foreseeable future. 46

2 "Wild animal product" means the fur, hide, skin, teeth, 48  
3 feathers, tusks, claws eggs, or the body or any portion 49  
4 thereof whether in a green or raw state or as a product 50  
5 manufactured or refined from an animal protected under this 51  
6 Act or under regulations issued pursuant to this Act. 52

7 "Plant" means any member of the plant kingdom including 54  
8 seeds, roots and other parts thereof. 55

(Ch. 8, par. 333) 57

9 Sec. 3. After January 1, 1973, it is unlawful to 60  
10 possess, sell, offer for sale, give or dispose of any animal 61  
11 or the wild animal product of any animal which is an 62  
12 endangered species under this Act, without a permit therefor 63  
13 issued by the Department as provided in Sections 4 and 5 of  
14 this Act.

(Ch. 8, par. 335) 65

15 Sec. 5. Upon proper application, the Department shall 68  
16 issue a limited permit authorizing the possession, purchase 69  
17 or disposition of live animals or wild animal products of an 70  
18 endangered species to any person, firm, association or 71  
19 corporation which had in its possession prior to the 72  
20 effective date of this Act, a wild animal product of an 73  
21 endangered species. Such permit shall specifically name and  
22 describe each wild animal product possessed by the permit 74  
23 holder and shall be valid only for possession purchase, or 75  
24 disposition of the products so named. The Department may 77  
25 require proof that acquisition of such wild animal product 7  
26 was made before the effective date of this Act. The  
27 Department shall also issue a permit authorizing the 76  
28 possession, purchase or disposition of live animals or wild 80  
29 animal products of an endangered species to any person to  
30 whom a holder of a valid permit issued pursuant to this 8  
31 section gives, sells, or otherwise transfers the live animal 81  
32 or wild animal product named in the permit. Permits issued 8  
33 pursuant to this section Such permits shall be valid as long 8



1 as the product remains in the possession of the person to 84  
2 whom the permit was issued is--in--existence. The limited 85  
3 permit may be revoked by the Director for any violation of 86  
4 this Act.

(Ch. 8, par. 337) 88

5 Sec. 7. Upon a majority vote of the members present, the 91  
6 Board may designate additional species as endangered species, 92  
7 which it considers to be in practical danger of extinction in 93  
8 a wild or natural state or may designate as threatened any 94  
9 species which it considers likely to become an endangered  
10 species within the foreseeable future, or remove the 95  
11 designation of endangered or threatened for any species for 96  
12 which there is scientific evidence that its wild or natural 97  
13 populations are no longer endangered. Such designation shall 98  
14 be made after a public hearing where all interested persons 99  
15 may attend and testify.

16 Notice of such hearing shall be published at least 7 days 101  
17 before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation 102  
18 throughout the state and shall be given by mail to any person 103  
19 who has, in writing requested notice of public hearings. Any 104  
20 person heard or represented at a hearing or who requested 105  
21 notice of such hearing, shall be given written notice of any 106  
22 action taken by the Board.

23 Any species or subspecies of animal designated as 108  
24 endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior of 109  
25 the United States pursuant to the Endangered Species 110  
26 Preservation Act of 1966, P. L. 89-669 or the Endangered 111  
27 Species Conservation Act of 1969, P. L. 91-135, shall be  
28 designated as an endangered or threatened species under this 112  
29 Act by the Board without notice or public hearing. 114

30 Upon designation or deletion by the Board of a species as 116  
31 endangered, or threatened, the Director shall file a 118  
32 certified copy of the names of the species so designated with 119  
33 the Secretary of State as provided in "An Act concerning  
34 administrative rules", approved June 14, 1951, as now and 120





SB1091

SB 1091eng

-4-

LEDCO-5226-AW/jp

- 1 hereafter amended. The designation takes effect 30 days after 121
- 2 such filing.





NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION BILL  
OUTLINEGeneral provisions

- 1 Short title
- 2 Legislative intent
- 3 Definitions

Administration

- 4 Commission created
- 5 Commission advisors and consultants
- 6 Commission powers and duties
- 7 Commission performance of work on nature preserves and registered areas
- 8 Department of Conservation powers and duties
- 9 Coordination of activities of Commission and Department
- 10 Department transfers of interest in real property
- 11 Adoption of policies and rules
- 12 Preparation and adoption of plans

Nature preserves

- 13 System created, procedure for dedication of nature preserves
- 14 Dedication of reserve areas
- 15 Dedication of cemeteries as nature preserves
- 16 Dedication of abandoned cemeteries as nature preserves
- 17 Custody, administration and management of nature preserves
- 18 Protection of nature preserves
- 19 Dedication of nature preserves by public agencies

Registered areas

- 20 Register created and registered areas authorized
- 21 Procedure for registration of an area
- 22 Notice of registration of an area
- 23 Enlargement of a registered area
- 24 Deregistration and reregistration of an area
- 25 Actions prohibited and allowed
- 26 Application for and issuance of certificate of compliance
- 27 Injunction to stay certain actions
- 28 Public acquisition of land in registered areas
- 29 Damages disallowed in certain cases
- 30 Prohibited acts not authorized by attempted land acquisition
- 31 Public agencies shall avoid actions affecting registered areas

Miscellaneous provisions

- 32 Public notice of certain Commission actions
- 33 Appointment and functions of advisory committees
- 34 Designation of nature preserves
- 35 Protection under Act is supplemental to existing protection
- 36 Preservation of public areas
- 37 Limitations of construction
- 38 Injunctions to enforce
- 39 Civil penalty for violations
- 40 Criminal penalty for violations
- 41 Judicial review

Conforming provisions

- 42 Validation of prior actions
- 43 Conforming amendment of municipal conveyance law
- 44 " " " forest preserve district law
- 45 " " " Conservation District Act
- 46 " " " Park District Code
- 47 " " " Regional Transportation Authority Act
- 48 " " " Revenue Act
- 49 " " " Personnel Code
- 50 " " " fraud in public contracts law
- 51 " " " Illinois Building Authority Act
- 52 " " " State parks and nature preserves law
- 53 Repeal of Nature Preserves Commission law
- 54 " " cemetery nature preserve law
- 55 Effective date

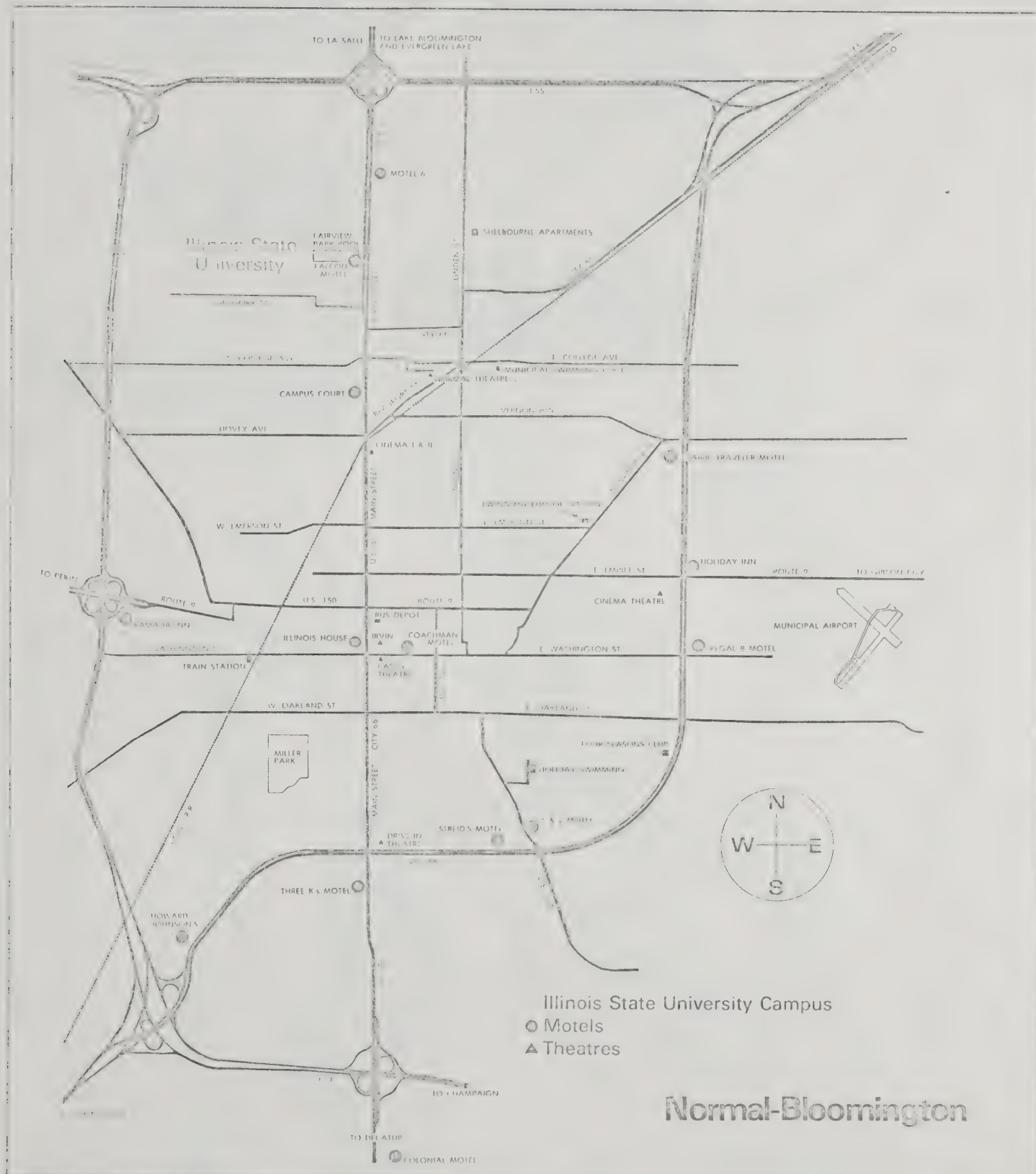


COMPARISON OF PROVISIONS OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION  
BILL AND PRESENT LAWS

<u>Provisions of bill</u>		<u>Changes from present laws</u>	<u>Corresponding provisions of present laws</u>
<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>		
1	Short title-Natural Heritage Preservation Act	New provision	No provision
2	Legislative intent-statement of situation and of public policy	New form and wording	Sec.2a Nature preserve system act
3	Definitions-key words defined	Mostly new provision	None, except "nature preserve" in 1a System Act and other words in context
4	Commission created	Minor changes in detail and wording	Sec.1 Nature Preserves Commission Act
5	Commission advisors	Minor changes in detail & wording	Sec.2 Commission Act
6	Commission powers and duties	Minor changes in wording	Sec.3 " "
6.01	To appoint, employ & assign duties, etc.	New provision	Not specified
6.02	To cooperate, contract, & enter into agreements	New provision	" "
6.03	To accept & administer gifts, etc.	New provision	" "
6.04	To compile & maintain inventories, etc.	Minor changes in detail & wording	Sec.7 Commission Act
6.05	To seek & approve dedication of nature preserves	New form and wording	Not specifically provided but included in 2b System Act
6.06	To supervise protection, management, & use of nature preserves	Change of form & wording	Sec.5 Commission Act
6.07	To register natural areas & reserve areas	New provisions	No provision
6.08	To conduct research, etc. & publish information, etc.	Mostly new provision	Not specified
6.09	To promote, etc, preservation	Change in wording	Sec.7 Commission Act
6.10	To consider, etc., proposals, etc., affecting ecology of State	New provision	None
6.11	To submit, etc., biennial report	Minor change in wording	Sec.8 Commission Act
6.12	To make, etc, policies, rules & plans	Change of form & wording, part new	Sec.4,5,&6 Commission Act & Sec.2a System Act



Provisions of bill		Changes from present laws	Corresponding provisions of present laws
Section	Subject		
7	Commission performance of work on land	New provision, relates to Section 48	None
8	Department of Conservation powers	New form	No equivalent section
8.01	To provide administrative, etc., services, etc., to Commission	New provision	None
8.02	To enforce Commission rules on public use	New provision	None
8.03	To acquire land, etc.	Change in wording, part new	Sec.2a System Act
8.04	To dedicate nature preserves	New form	No equivalent section
9	Coordination of activities of Commission & Department	New provision	None
10	Department transfers of interest in land	New provision	None
11	Adoption of policies & rules	New provision relating to and amplifying Sec. 6.12	None
12	Preparation & adoption of plans	New provision relating to and amplifying Sec. 6.12	None
13	System created, procedures for dedicating	Change of form & wording, part new	Sec.2a & 2b System Act
14	Dedication of buffer areas	New form	No equivalent section
15	Dedication of cemeteries	New form	" " "
16	Dedication of abandoned cemeteries	Change in wording, part new	Sec. 1 thru 7 Cemetery nature preserves act
17	Custody, administration, & management of nature preserves	New provision	None
18	Protection of nature preserves	Change of form & wording, part new	Sec. 2b System Act
19	Dedication by public agencies	Change in wording, part new	Sec. 2c " "
20 thru 31	Registered areas	New provisions	None
32	Public notice of actions	New form	No equivalent section
33	Advisory committees	New provision	None
34	Protection under Act is supplementary	Change in wording	Part of Sec.2d System Act
35 thru 41	Miscellaneous provisions	New provisions	None
42 thru 53	Conforming provisions	New provisions	No comparability of sections







This is a detailed street map of the University City neighborhood in San Diego. The map shows a grid of streets including Main St., University St., College Ave., and others. Buildings are represented by 3D-style icons and numbered from 1 to 34. A red arrow points to building 17, and a red rectangle highlights a building on Main St. A compass rose in the lower right corner indicates North, East, South, and West. The map is oriented with North at the top.



DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

INPC 63  
Item 13

MYER WOODS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Princeton Park District, a municipal corporation, of Princeton, Illinois, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following real property in Bureau County, Illinois as a nature preserve:

Lot 3 of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Bureau County, Illinois, according to the Plat thereof recorded November 25, 1867 in Book A of Plats, page 32 as #44039, being the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, containing 20 acres, more or less.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

Parts of the above described tract lying within 50 feet of the centerline of the existing public road along the south end of said tract may be used for public road purposes and for development of a parking area.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals  
this 4th day of March, 1977.

PRINCETON PARK DISTRICT

Carl H. Hultine  
Chairman

Attest:

Coris Metternich  
Secretary





DEDICATION OF AN ADDITION

SHAW PRAIRIE AND WOODLAND NATURE PRESERVE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the LAKE FOREST OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate all its right, title and interest in the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Parcel 1: All that part of Lot 23 of Western Addition to Lake Forest in Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12, East of the 3rd P.M., which lies South Westerly of the center line of Skokie Ditch.

Parcel 2: All that part of Lot 25 of Western Addition to Lake Forest in Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12, East of the 3rd P.M., described as follows: Beginning at the South East corner of said Lot 25; thence West along South line thereof 219.5 feet; thence North parallel with East line thereof 788.89 feet more or less to a point in North line thereof which is 219.5 feet West of North East corner of said Lot 25 (being also point of intersection of North line of said Lot 25 with center line of Skokie Ditch); thence East along North line of said Lot 25, 219.5 feet to North East corner of said Lot 25 and thence South along East line thereof 789.5 feet more or less to place of beginning (excepting therefrom that part thereof which lies North Easterly of center line of said Skokie Ditch), all in Lake County, Illinois.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves, in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

The following described real property lying adjacent to that part of the Shaw Prairie and Woodland Nature Preserve that is owned and has been dedicated as part of the Illinois nature preserves system by The Nature Conservancy is hereby dedicated as buffer area for the protection of the nature preserve:





Lot 5 and that part of Lot 8 which lies West of the Southward extension of the East line of said Lot 5, all in Owner's Subdivision of part of the Northeast Quarter West of Green Bay Road and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12, East of the Third Principal Meridian in Lake County, Illinois.

The buffer area hereinabove described and dedicated may be developed, managed, or used for public conservation, recreation or service purposes as may be approved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Department of Conservation or shall be managed as if it were part of the nature preserve herein above referred to.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

LAKE FOREST OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Department of Conservation

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission



DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

"Skokie"

SHAW PRAIRIE AND WOODLAND

INPC 63

Item 15

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate all its right, title and interest in the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Parcel 1. Lots 2, 3 and 4 in the Estate of George D. McLaughlin Resubdivision of part of Lots 25 and 26, of Western Addition to Lake Forest, in Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12, East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof, recorded March 14, 1956, as Document 900922, in Book 1426 of Records, page 495, in Lake County, Illinois.

Parcel 2. Lot 1 in the Estate of George D. McLaughlin Resubdivision of part of Lots 25 and 26, of Western Addition to Lake Forest, in Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12, East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof, recorded March 14, 1956, as Document 900922, in Book 1426 of Records, page 495 in Lake County, Illinois.

That part of Lot 1, in Clay Judson Subdivision in the North half of Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat of said Subdivision recorded as Document No. 795553 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Lake County at Waukegan, Illinois, which part of Lot 1 lies West of a line described as follows: Beginning at a point on the South line of said Lot 1, which point is 404.92 feet West of the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 29, and running thence North perpendicular to said South line, a distance of 144.64 feet, to a point; thence Northwestwardly along a line deflecting an angle of 22°-07'-37" to the left, with the last described line, a distance of 189.40 feet to its intersection with the North line of said Lot 1. Containing 233,472 square feet (5.3598 acres) of land more or less.

That part of Lot 1, in Clay Judson Subdivision in the North half of Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat of said Subdivision recorded as Document No. 795553 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Lake County at Waukegan, Illinois, which part of Lot 1 is bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 29, said corner being a point on the South line of said Lot 1, and running thence West along the South line of said Lot 1, a distance of 404.92 feet; thence North perpendicular to said South line, a distance of 144.64 feet to a point; thence Northwestwardly along a line deflecting an angle of 22°-07'-37" to the left, with the last described line, a distance of 189.40 feet to its intersection with the North line of said Lot 1; thence East along North line of Lot 1, a distance of 944.55 feet, to an intersection with a line of ~~xxxxxx distance of 944.55 feet, to an intersection with a line~~ drawn perpendicular to said South line of Lot 1, at a point 468.58 feet East of the aforesaid Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 29; thence South along said perpendicular line, a distance of 320.16 feet to a point on the South line of Lot 1, and thence West along said South line of Lot 1, a distance of 468.58 feet, to the point of beginning; containing 285,948 square feet (6.5624 acres) of land more or less.





Parcel 3. Those parts of Lots 11 and 17 of the Owner's Subdivision in the North one-half of Section 29, Township 44 North, Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in the City of Lake Forest, filed as Document No. 94205, described as follows: Starting at the Northeast corner of Lot 17; thence South 270 feet along the East line of Lot 17 to a point 50 feet South of the South line of premises conveyed by Documents No. 432170 and 448791; thence West parallel with said South line of premises conveyed by Documents No. 432170 and 448791 and with said South line extended, 560 feet to the point of beginning; thence West parallel with said South line of premises conveyed by Documents No. 432170 and 448791 and with said South line extended, to the Easterly line of the premises conveyed to the Chicago and North Western Railway by deed filed as Document No. 282205 on July 8, 1926, thence curving North-easterly along the Easterly line of the premises conveyed by Document No. 282205 to the North line of Lot 11; thence East along the North line of Lot 11 to a point 650 feet West of the Northeast corner of Lot 11; and thence Southeasterly in a straight line to the point of beginning.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of saidland to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

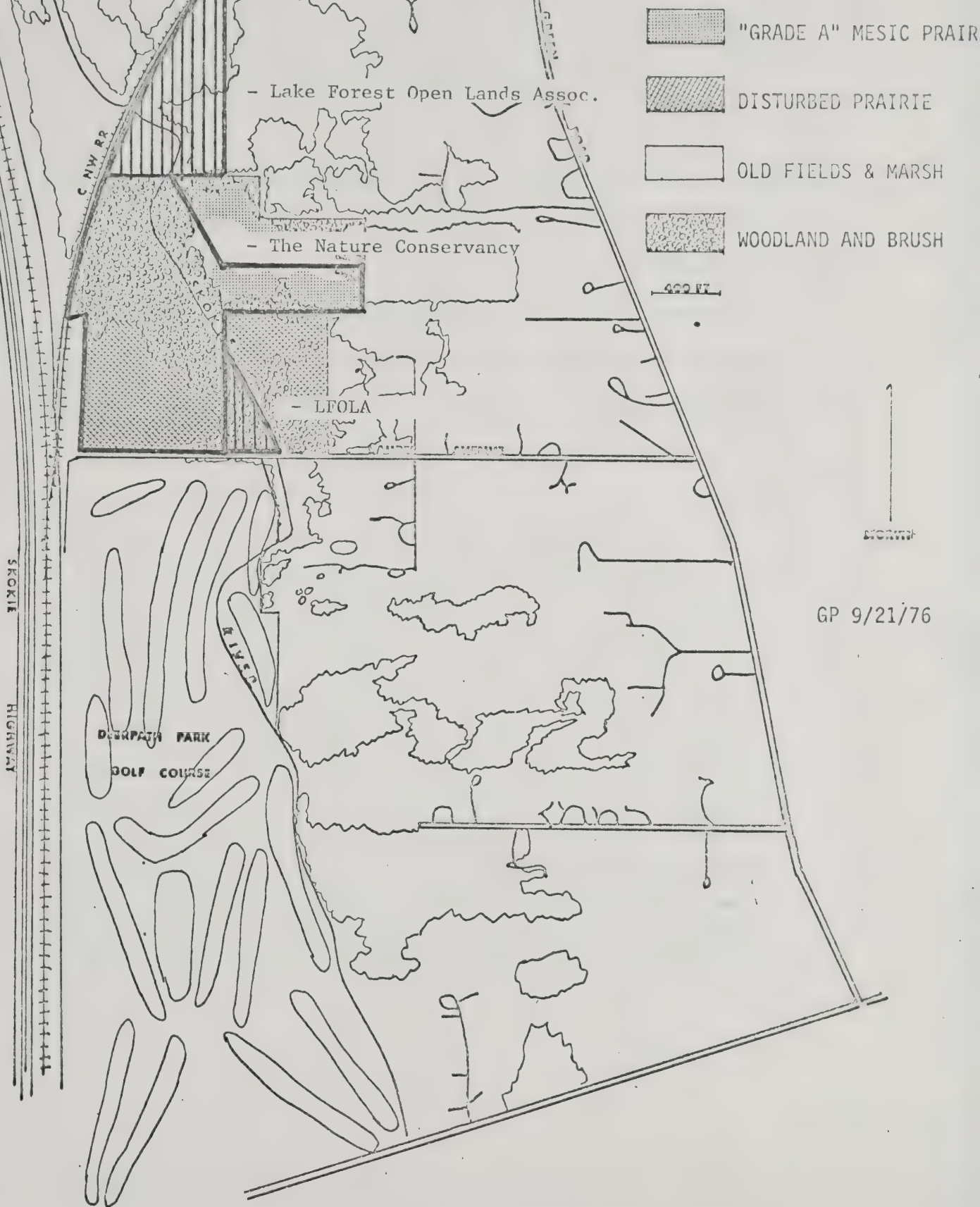
This dedication is made subject to the rights of the North Shore Sanitary District to maintain the existing sewer line and the rights of the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago to maintain the channel of the Skokie Branch of the Chicago River.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.



LAKE FOREST PROJECT  
LAKE COUNTY







DEDICATION OF REAL PROPERTY AS BUFFER TO

INPC 63  
Item 16

MARGERIE C. CARLSON NATURE PRESERVE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, a District of Columbia not-for-profit corporation, being the owner thereof, does hereby dedicate all of its present and future interest in the following described real property as a buffer area for the protection of the Margery C. Carlson Nature Preserve lying adjacent thereto, said nature preserve having been dedicated June 14, 1976 under the name of Big Bend as part of the Illinois nature preserves system, which nature preserve dedication is recorded as Document No.

by the LaSalle County Recorder of Deeds:

Parcel #1: Part of Lot One of Section 7 and part of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 14 of Section 8, Township 32 North, Range 2, East of the Third Principal Meridian, and is described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 7; thence North 84 degrees 57 minutes 46 seconds West 552.81 feet to a point; thence North 5 degrees 49 minutes 18 seconds West 67.8 feet to a point; thence North 33 degrees 28 minutes 27 seconds West 187.93 feet to a point; thence North 48 degrees 26 minutes 4 seconds West 234.4 feet to a point; thence North 27 degrees 48 minutes 04 seconds West 98 feet to a point; thence North 38 degrees 0 minutes 4 seconds West 54.5 feet to a point; thence North 130 feet, more or less, to the center of the Vermillion River; thence South-easterly approximately 3815 feet along the centerline of the Vermillion River to a point in the center of the River; thence North 72 degrees 59 minutes 36 seconds West 1060 feet more or less to a point; thence North 43 degrees 32 minutes 55 seconds West 696.22 feet to a point; thence North 1 degree 11 minutes 48 seconds West 117.82 feet along the East line of Section 7 to the point of beginning; according to the plat thereof recorded 1 April 1970 as Doc. #559964; all situated in Vermillion Township;

Parcel #2: Part of Lots 1 and 18 of Section 7 Township 32 North, Range 2, East of the Third Principal Meridian, lying East of a public highway and is described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 7 thence South 0 degrees 36 minutes 40 seconds West 520.61 feet to a point, thence South 58 degrees 05 minutes 33 seconds West 632.55 feet to a point; thence South 11 degrees 2 minutes 26 seconds East 37.2 feet to a point; thence South 80 degrees 33 minutes 58 seconds West 274.88 feet to a point; thence South 74 degrees 29 minutes 51 seconds West 539.09 feet to a point, thence North 1 degree 19 minutes West 1131.55 feet to a point; thence South 87 degrees 51 minutes 12 seconds East 1353.0 feet along the North line of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 7 to the point of beginning, according to the plat thereof recorded 1 April 1970 as Doc. #559964, all situated in Vermillion Township;

All of the above described real estate being situated in LaSalle County, Illinois, and containing approximately 84.64 acres.



The buffer area hereinabove described and dedicated may be developed, managed, or used for public conservation, recreation or service purposes as may be approved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Department of Conservation or shall be managed as if it were part of the nature preserve herein above referred to.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Attest:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Department of Conservation

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission

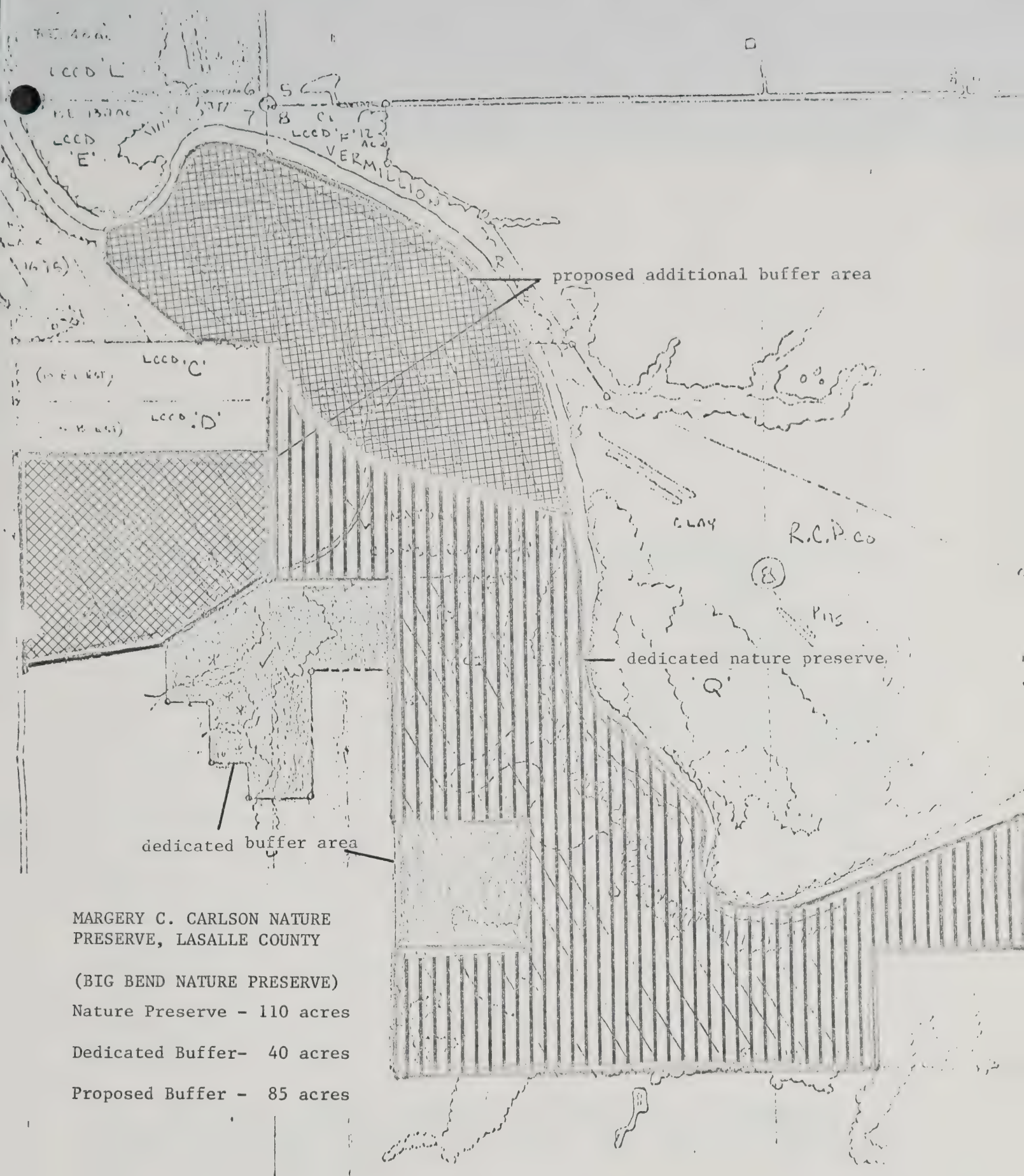
\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission







MARGERY C. CARLSON NATURE  
PRESERVE, LASALLE COUNTY

(BIG BEND NATURE PRESERVE)

Nature Preserve - 110 acres

Dedicated Buffer- 40 acres

Proposed Buffer - 85 acres



# Illinois State University

Department of Biological Sciences

INPC 63

Item 17

April 4, 1977

Mr. George Fell  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
819 N. Main Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear Mr. Fell:

The recent decision by the Illinois Department of Conservation to allow motorcycle riding in Sand Ridge State Forest has heightened the concern of herpetologists throughout the state about the safety of the Illinois Mud Turtle (Kinosternon flavescens spooneri). Recently I received a letter from Phil Smith (Head of the Section of Faunistic Surveys and Insect Identification at the Illinois Natural History Survey) indicating that he was "very much alarmed about the situation." Also, I recently received a phone call from Dr. Ken Dodd (Herpetologist for the Office of Endangered Species, U. S. Department of the Interior) who urged me to prepare an application for him proposing that the Illinois Mud Turtle be declared Endangered. The Sand Ridge population of spooneri is one of the two populations in Illinois known to be extant. There is only one other extant population outside the state. It is my feeling that the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Natural Areas Section of the Illinois Department of Conservation could do much to assure the conservation of spooneri by establishing the area around the spooneri ponds at Sand Ridge State Forest as a Nature Preserve. At this time I would like to make a formal request that the Commission and the Natural Areas Section seriously consider taking this action. Since the Henry Allan Gleason Nature Preserve is not far from the spooneri ponds, it would seem only natural to include spooneri as part of the conservation efforts in the Sand Ridge region. I would suggest that a minimum of 30 acres (with the spooneri ponds in the middle) be set aside as a Nature Preserve. Since the State already owns the land there would be very little or no expense involved. Also, the forest around the ponds is an excellent example of the scrub oak association and is worthy of preservation. It is certainly as good as the scrub oak association at the Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve.

I can't envision any special management requirements for the spooneri area other than perhaps cutting out the few pines and other exotic tree species present, and a partial re-routing of the nature trail through the area to reduce public traffic near the ponds.

I have talked this proposal over with Dale Birkenholz and he is quite favorable towards the idea. He is going to bring it up at the next meeting of the Commission.



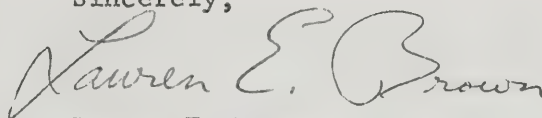


Mr. George Fell  
April 4, 1977  
Page two

In many respects spooneri is a very unique animal and I would not be surprised if future research were to reveal that it is a distinct species. Certainly this interesting turtle is worthy of preserving. I only hope it can be saved before it is too late. Can we count on your support for its conservation?

I write this letter as Regional Coordinator (Central U.S.A.) for the Conservation Committee of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (an international organization).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren E. Brown". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lauren E. Brown  
Associate Professor of Vertebrate  
Zoology

LEB/n  
cc: D. Birkenholz



David Kenney  
~~ANTHONY DERRAN~~  
DIRECTOR



Illinois  
Department of  
Conservation  
Life and Land Together



~~WILLIAM M. MATTHE~~  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706  
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

April 15, 1977

Dr. Lauren Brown  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Illinois State University  
Felmley Hall 206  
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Lauren:

Sorry for the belated response to your letter of March 30, but I have been away on vacation.

As regards the motorcycle situation at Sand Ridge, the information I received from you earlier led me to conclude that there would be no impact of the current cycle trail on spooneri because of the distance between the known habitat and range of the species on the forest and the trail. I would appreciate any information you can supply at this time on the ecology and biology of the Sand Ridge population of spooneri.

Your suggestion that the nature trail area of the Forest be dedicated as a nature preserve as habitat for an endangered species is worthy of consideration, and I would like to meet with you in the field to discuss this and look at the area. Protection of existing habitat is important to the species, but direct human disturbance doesn't seem to have played an important role in the decline of this population. I believe this population needs active management rather than passive protection in order to survive. I would suggest that its decline may be due to a loss of wet habitat due to a lowered water table and that dredging of the existing ponds rather than preserving them "as is" may be better for the turtles. If this population can be enlarged, perhaps we can transplant turtles to new ponds which have recently been created in the forest. In short, I think we need management oriented research and a management plan for this species. Perhaps the collective knowledge of the state's herpetologists could preclude the need for research and we could just proceed to a plan. I would like to discuss this with you as well.

I will plan on calling early next week to arrange a trip to the site.

Sincerely,

John E. Schwegman  
Chief Natural Areas Specialist

JES:11h

cc: Dale Birkenholz, George Fell, Phil Smith, Vern Kleen

P.S. Attached are maps showing areas you might want to search for additional spooneri populations. I think I saw one at a Cass County pond but could not catch it.





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DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

INPC 63

Item 18

FULTS HILL PRAIRIE ADDITION

Monroe County

Attached is the dedication document for a 125-acre addition to the Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve; land acquired by the Department of Conservation in March, 1976. Dedication of this property will add significant hill prairie, upland woods, and talus slope habitat to the existing nature preserve. Fults Hill Prairie, representative of the north section of the Ozark Natural Division of Illinois, is an outstanding natural area containing many plants and animals common to the Missouri Ozarks but which are rare in Illinois. A tract of four acres intended for parking and trailhead development is excluded from the dedication.

This tract is similar in character and natural quality to the existing preserve except that it contains talus slopes below the cliffs of the limestone river bluffs and a large spring. Neither of these habitats occur on the existing preserve. The talus habitat presumably provides denning and other habitat for a variety of animals. This tract also contains the largest prairie opening and highest cliffs in the project area.



DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the State of Illinois, Department of Conservation, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Tax Lot 42-C, containing 146.50 acres, more or less; Tax Lot 54-E, containing 3.30 acres, more or less; and Tax Lot 54-F, containing 11.30 acres, more or less; all in Survey 358 (Renault Grant) in Township 4 South, Range 10 West of the 3rd P.M., Monroe County, Illinois, as shown on pages 91 and 146 of the Surveyor's Official Plat Record "A" of Monroe County, Illinois records:

EXCEPTING, however, the following described portion of said Tax Lot 42-C:

Beginning at the most southerly corner of Tax Lot 42-C; thence north 59° west 737.22 feet along the southwesterly line of said Tax Lot 42-C to a point thence north 63° west 162.78 feet along the said southwesterly line of said Tax Lot 42-C to a point; thence north 27° east 250 feet to a point thence south 63° east, a distance of 770 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly line of said Tax Lot 42-C; thence south 6° 15' west, a distance of 300 feet, more or less, along the said easterly line of said Tax Lot 42-C to the place of beginning:

AND ALSO excepting the westerly 150 feet of said Tax Lot 54-E.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves, in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director,  
Department of Conservation

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission







Saltwater Cave

St. Johns Cem

Fults

Fults

Present Fults Hill Nature Preserve

Area exempted from dedication Proposed Nature Preserve Addition

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

(BLOOMSDALE)  
7960 II SW  
SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE



MATCH LINE

54 D

HIGHWAY 6

162.78

250'

737.22

54 F

54 E

54 D

MARCH LINE

LOT 42 C









# ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD



Established in 1972 by the Illinois General Assembly

12 April 1977

INPC 63  
Item 19

Mr. George Fell  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
819 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

Dear Mr. Fell:

The Endangered Species Board met in Chicago yesterday and further discussed Dr. Brandon's application to collect 200 specimens of the dusky salamander. In view of the fact that 268 of these salamanders have already been collected by Dr. Brandon and are available for research, the Board does not believe that there is justification for the collection of an additional 200 of these animals.

Therefore, the Board has reaffirmed its recommendation of 14 March 1977, that Dr. Brandon's permit or authorization be revoked.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Poppie". Below the signature is a small, stylized monogram "jpm".

Joseph Poppie, Chairman  
Endangered Species Board

cc: Dr. Brandon



# office memorandum

INPC 63  
Item 19

to: Bob Schanzle  
from: Andy West  
date: April 18, 1977  
subject: Relative abundance index for Dusky Salamanders  
as Chestnut Hills Preserve (Pulaski Co.)

Attached are the figures from our 1977 spring census of duskies at Chestnut Hills. Bob Arseneau, filed volunteer, and I counted a total of 436 specimens during 13.52 hrs. of field time. You will note that this is lower than the 1976 census, taken during the period June-September. I believe that the problem was in our census technique; since there was murky water we were unable to see the small juveniles, most noticable were the adults and subadults. Note that the number of adults remained about the same; this is most important since the reproducing population is nearly the same. Applying the index we used last year, the total population is 3363 individuals.

I discussed these findings with Dr. Brandon and he says that he would be most willing to help us get a continuing mark-recapture study started on the Chestnut Hills population. This method will give us a better indication of population trends as well as survivalship during different seasons. He suggested that he could get a student interested if initiating this study either this year or next, plus train me and other department personnel to conduct the census.

I believe it is important that we budget for contractual money or at least travel reimbursement for this student. If you agree, I'll have Dr. Brandon draw up a project proposal and cost estimate before the next fiscal quarter.

If possible, we need to submit these figures to INPC members for consideration at the upcoming meeting. Let me know whether I should generate this from my office or if you all could submit it to George and the members.





West to Schanzle  
Dusky salamanders  
April 18, 1977

1977 Spring Dusky Salamander Census  
Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve (Pulaski Co.)

Number of Salamanders

<u>Ravine</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Juneniles and Subadults</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (hrs.)</u>
1	180	2	3	5	3/22/77	.33
2	400	6	34	40	3/22/77	1.33
3	4800	101	175	276	3/17/77 3/22/77	7.63
4	1000	14	20	34	3/29/77	1.8
5.	1500	35	46	81	3/29/77	2.42
$\Sigma$	7800	158	278	436		13.51
1976	7800	189	462	651		12.08





CHESTNUT HILLS N.R.  
Blaski County  
Ravines examined for dusky  
salamanders (1977 Spring Count).





DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

THORN CREEK WOODS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Will County Forest Preserve District, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Parcel 1: The southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11, except the north half of Sub Lots 3 and 4 in Woodland Subdivision of the northeast quarter of Section 11, and except that part of Sub Lot 1 of Lot 4, of the aforesaid Subdivision, lying west of the east right-of-way line of Monee Road and except the north half of Lot 5 in the original Subdivision of the northeast quarter which Subdivision is recorded in Book 75, page 449, as Document No. 42726, all in Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 2: Lot 6 in the Subdivision of the southeast quarter of Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, except that part taken for Exchange Street, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 3: That part of the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian lying east of the easterly right-of-way line of Monee Road and north of the north right-of-way line of Exchange Street (as relocated) by instrument recorded as Document No. 965063, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 4: The east half of the south half of the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 11, and the south half of Sub Lot 3 of Lot 4 in the original Subdivision of the northeast quarter of Section 11, all in Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 5: The east 200 feet of that part of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 11 which lies easterly of the centerline of Monee Road and which lies south of the south line of the north 966 feet of said Section; also, the south 100 feet of the east 200 feet of the north 966 feet of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 11, all in Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 6: Lot 7 in the Subdivision of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded December 9, 1946 in Book 1140, page 537 as Document No. 617215, in Will County, Illinois.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore



amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

Upon the approval of the Will County Forest Preserve District, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Conservation, that part of the real property herein dedicated lying within 100 feet of the centerline of existing Monee Road may be used for public highway purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this

10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1977.

William H. Lindsey  
President, Will County Forest Preserve District

Attest:

Robert M. Reynolds  
Secretary, Will County Forest Preserve District

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Department of Conservation

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission





DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

INPC 63  
Item 20-B)

THORN CREEK WOODS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Village of Park Forest, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Parcel 1: The north half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11; also the north half of the west half of Lot 4, in the original subdivision of the northeast quarter of Section 11, according to the plat thereof recorded in Book 75, Page 449, all in Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 2: The east 165 feet of the north half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 3: The northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, and that part of the northeast quarter of said Section lying south and east of existing Monee Road; excepting therefrom all that part thereof lying northwesterly of the following described line: beginning at a point 330 feet south of the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of said Section 2; thence east 350 feet to a point; thence North 36° East 1100 feet, more or less, to Monee Road, all in Will County, Illinois.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

Upon the approval of the Village of Park Forest, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Conservation, that part of the real property herein dedicated lying within 100 feet of the centerline of existing Monee Road may be used for public highway purposes.



DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

THORN CREEK WOODS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Village of Park Forest South, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Parcel 1: That part of Lots 6, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 in the Subdivision of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded December 9, 1946 in Book 1140, page 537 as Document #617215, described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence North along the west line of said Southwest Quarter for a distance of 1,994.35 feet to the North line of the South Half of the North Half of said Southwest Quarter; thence East 800.00 feet along the last said line; thence South 750.00 feet; thence East 670.00 feet; thence South 805.00 feet; thence West 778.00 feet; thence South 415.00 feet to the South line of said Southwest Quarter; thence West 692.00 feet to the place of beginning, excepting therefrom Lot 7 in the subdivision of the Southwest Quarter of said Section, all in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 2: Lots 1, 2, 3, 8 and the South 9 acres of that part of Lots 6 and 7 lying easterly of the East line of existing Monee Road all in the subdivision of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded March 28, 1851, as Document #10971, all in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 3: Being parts of Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 7 and Sub Lots 1 through 6 of Lot 3, and sub lot 12 of Lot 3 in the Original Subdivision of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, thence South 0 degrees 09 minutes 25 seconds east, along the east line of said Northeast Quarter, 400.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 35 seconds West, 220.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 09 minutes 25 seconds East, 800.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 35 seconds West, 395.62 feet to the West line of the East Half of said Northeast Quarter of Section 11; thence North 0 degrees 12 minutes 10 seconds West, 1609.09 feet to the North line of said Northeast Quarter; thence easterly 1320.90 feet to the Point of Beginning, excepting therefrom the north 450 feet of Lot 2 and Sub Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Lot 3 in the original subdivision of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, all in Will County, Illinois.

Parcel 4: The East 1/2 of Lot 8 and the South 1 Rod of Lot 2, all in the Subdivision of the South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 13 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded March 28, 1851 as document no. 10971, all in Will County, Illinois.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature





Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

Upon approval of the Village of Park Forest South, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Conservation, that part of the real property herein dedicated lying within 100 feet of the centerline of existing Monee Road may be used for public highway purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Village of Park Forest South

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Village of Park Forest South

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Department of Conservation

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission

\_\_\_\_\_, 1977  
Date

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves  
Commission



21)

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET  
SPRINGFIELD 62706

April 7, 1977

Mr. James V. Bildilli  
Engineer of Planning & Programming  
Bureau of Airport Engineering  
Division of Aeronautics  
Capital Airport  
Springfield, Illinois 62705

RE: Greater Rockford Airport, Rockford, Ill. Proj. 72P-0-04  
PGP No. A-17-008-01, Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
EIS #76 10 042

Dear Mr. Bildilli:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the established rules and procedures for its implementation and in accordance with OMB Circular A-95 (revised) and the administrative policy of the State, the Illinois State Clearinghouse is transmitting the attached comments on the referenced project. Representatives of all State agencies whose activities might be effected have been provided an opportunity to review this subject.

The State Clearinghouse recommends that the airport authority, airport consultant and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission discuss alternate plans for development which will minimize damage to the Airport Prairie.

It is requested that a copy of the final EIAR be sent to the State Clearinghouse and to the commenting agency.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,



T. E. Hornbacker, Director  
Illinois State Clearinghouse

TEH:mc

Attachment

✓ cc: IL Nature Preserves Commission





# Illinois Nature Preserves Commission



819 NORTH MAIN STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61103  
815/964-6666

INPC 63  
Item 21)

Executive Secretary:  
GEORGE B. FELL

March 29, 1977

## MEMBERS

Chairman:  
DR. DALE E. BIRKENHOLZ  
Department of  
Biological Sciences  
Illinois State University  
Normal, Illinois 61761  
309/436-6567

Vice-Chairman  
FREDERICK KALIVODA  
321 West State Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61101  
815/968-5761

Secretary:  
DR. PETER SCHRAMM  
Knox College  
Galesburg, Illinois 61401  
309/443-0112

WARREN DeWALT  
624 Wellner Street  
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312/355-2630

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Charleston, Illinois 61920  
217/581-3525

DR. JAMES FRALISH  
Department of Forestry  
Southern Illinois University  
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618/453-3341

GORDON GRAVES  
480 South May Avenue  
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815/933-6500

DR. ALAN HANEY  
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217/333-4306

DR. STANLEY E. HARRIS, JR.  
Department of Geology  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901  
618/453-3351

Mr. T. E. Hornbacker, Director  
Illinois State Clearinghouse  
Lincoln Tower Plaza  
524 S. Second Street, 3rd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Greater Rockford Airport, Rockford, Illinois, Project 72P-0-04,  
PGP No. A-17-008-01, Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
EIS # 76-10-042

Dear Mr. Hornbacker:

The Nature Preserves Commission has reviewed the Final  
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Greater  
Rockford Airport Master Plan.

In comments on the preliminary EIAR the Commission  
expressed concern for the natural area known as the Airport Prairie,  
and requested that the prairie be indicated on a map so that the  
physical impact of the project could be assessed (enclosure 1).  
The final report indicates the Airport Prairie by delineating  
the prairie with a dark line on the Airport Layout Plan (page E3-A).  
For further clarification, we have indicated the approximate  
location of the best part of the prairie in terms of natural quality  
on the enclosed copy of the Airport Layout Plan (enclosure 2).  
The map shows that the southeast end of the Airport Prairie is  
located in the path of the proposed runway and taxiway R/W 6R-24L.  
It appears that at least 200 feet of the prairie will be destroyed  
or disturbed by the development.

The impact of the project on the Airport Prairie is not  
adequately discussed in the EIAR. It is not discussed under the  
sections on Advantages/Disadvantages Resulting from Proposed  
Development (page E-24); nor under Probable, Unavoidable, Adverse  
Environmental Effects (page E-102); nor under Irreversible or  
Irretrievable Commitments of Resources (page E-104). Page E-92  
states that the Airport Prairie must be protected during construction,  
a statement which implies that the prairie can be protected in its  
entirety. This is inconsistent with the location of the prairie  
on the Airport Layout Plan (page E-3A).





Mr. T. E. Hornbacker

-2-

March 29, 1977

The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, a research project of the University of Illinois funded by the Department of Conservation, studied the Airport Prairie in October 1976. The prairie qualifies as a natural area of state significance under the criteria of the Natural Areas Inventory.

Since the EIAR ignores the negative impact of the Airport Master Plan on the Airport Prairie and fails to evaluate alternatives that would avoid impacting the prairie, the Nature Preserves Commission considers the EIAR to be inadequate and recommends that it not be approved by the Governor.

Sincerely,

*Richard H. Thom*

Richard H. Thom  
Field Representative

Encl.







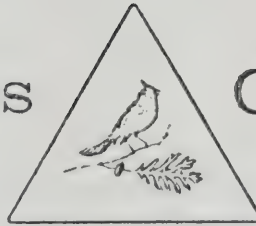
From Airport Layout Plan Page E-3A  
Shading shows extent of highest quality prairie





# Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

819 NORTH MAIN STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61103  
815/964-6666



October 13, 1976

Mr. Frank St. Angel, Hearing Officer  
Greater Rockford Airport Environmental Assessment Report  
Winnebago County Court House  
400 W. State Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61101

OCT 18 1976

ILLINOIS STATE  
CLERK

Dear Mr. St. Angel:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission is charged by statute with the protection and preservation of natural areas and the formulation of policies for administration of the Illinois nature preserves system. The Commission staff has reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Greater Rockford Airport Master Plan prepared by Talbert, Cox and Associates and requests that this letter be included in the hearing proceedings for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The Commission is concerned about the impact of the Airport Master Plan on a natural area known as the Airport Prairie. The discussion of the Airport Prairie in the EIAS does not adequately show the importance of this natural area to the Rockford area and to the State, nor does it adequately discuss the impact of the Master Plan on this prairie.

Although Illinois is known as the "Prairie State", almost none of this State's original prairie remains. The small prairie on the Greater Rockford Airport has special significance to the citizens of Rockford who long have recognized its value as a scientific and educational resource and who have spoken out for its preservation for more than 20 years.

In 1957, Rockford citizens and local newspapers protested a plan to allow cattle grazing on the Airport Prairie. The Airport Board changed the plan so that the prairie would not be grazed. In October, 1959, the Airport Board agreed to maintain the area in its natural state as long as they could.

In 1968 the Airport Prairie was again threatened, this time for use as a borrow area for fill needed on a runway extension. Some of the prairie was destroyed before the pleas of concerned citizens temporarily halted the bulldozing of the prairie. Local citizens once again organized to oppose destruction of the prairie. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission studied the situation and recommended that the Airport Board use alternative sources of fill and that the prairie be preserved. The Department of Conservation also asked that the prairie be saved. After a telegraphed plea from the Governor the Airport Board decided to preserve the prairie that had not already been destroyed by the borrow operation.





A natural area of such local significance and recognition deserves more than five sentences in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The Report states on page E-92 that "During construction of R/W 6R-24L and R/W 6L-24R, the Airport Prairie must be protected". But the report does not show the prairie on the Airport Layout Plan, so there is no way to assess the amount of physical loss of prairie area from studying the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It appears that a portion of the south end of the prairie will be destroyed by the taxiway for proposed R/W 6R-24L. This is not mentioned in the assessment statement. The Airport Layout Plan also shows a new entrance road connecting Beltline Road to Cessna Drive. This road would pass through the prairie, causing destruction which is not mentioned in the Assessment Report.

The Assessment Report does not give an adequate resource inventory of the prairie, and the information that is provided is misleading. The report mentions twelve plant species that occur on the prairie and refers to some of the grasses that are actually quite common as being rare.

The significance of the Airport Prairie is not that it contains big bluestem, little bluestem and Indian grass. The significance is that it is a scarce natural community harboring several rare species. Here over 60 species of native plants grow in a natural interacting association, creating the natural community that is known as prairie. In a state that was once half covered with this natural community, only a tiny fraction of one percent remains. Thus, the Airport Prairie is a small relic of a once common Illinois landscape.

In the Airport Prairie grow several plant species which are rare or uncommon in Illinois. Among these are the Carolina anemone (Anemone caroliniana), Pasque flower (Anemone patens), Silky aster (Aster sericeus), Fringed puccoon (Lithospermum incisum), and prairie smoke (Geum triflorum). The presence of certain prairie species that occur only in relatively undisturbed sites such as leadplant (Amorpha canescens), purple prairie clover (Petalostemum purpureum), Prairie gentian (Gentiana puberula), and prairie dropseed grass (Sporobolus heterolepis) indicates that this is true remnant prairie and not an assortment of native plants on an area of disturbed ground.

The Airport Prairie is a dry gravel hill prairie of both local and statewide significance. Any impact on this prairie such as reduction in size due to runway or road construction, airport maintenance, or other reasons should be fully discussed in the Environmental Assessment Report, and alternatives with less impact should be explored.

It would be appropriate for the Airport Board to make a commitment to the preservation of the native prairie that will remain after the implementation of the Airport Master Plan. Such a commitment could be <sup>made</sup> by dedicating the prairie as an Illinois nature preserve under state law. A recommendation to this effect could be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.





Mr. Frank St. Angel

-3-

October 13, 1976

In summary, the Airport Prairie is a natural area of educational and scientific significance to the people of Rockford and of Illinois. This prairie should be preserved. A full, detailed discussion of the impacts of the Airport Master Plan should be included in the Environmental Assessment Report, including an accurate map showing the relationship of the Airport Layout Plan to the prairie. Where the plan threatens portions of the prairie, modifications should be considered.

Sincerely,

*Richard H. Thom*

Richard H. Thom  
Field Representative

Copies to:

Rockford Airport Board  
State Clearinghouse  
FAA  
Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas & Long Range Planning  
City County Planning Commission



